(b) As per the extant EXIM Policy, foodgrains can be exported freely. Some of the provisions to boost the exports of foodgrains include publicity through campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in international trade fairs and inviting potential buyers.

(c) No targets for export are fixed.

Violation of Export Policy by iron ore exporting companies

†778. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many iron ore exporting companies are grossly violating the export policy and some companies have been found guilty for it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government against the guilty companies so far; and

(d) the concrete arrangements being made by Government to ban the export of high quality iron ore in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Recently test checks of consignments of iron ore exports was conducted. Except in one case, the others were found in conformity with the obligations of the Foreign Trade Policy.

(c) Adjudication proceedings against the firm are in progress.

(d) The Export Policy for export of high quality iron ore for the year 2005-2006 is still under formulation.

New Export Promotion Scheme

779. SHRI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a meeting between the Ministry and all the Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and other bodies in the country recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government announced a new export promotion scheme in place of the existing Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.